

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A barrel for a writing implement, comprising:

a barrel body having a gripping part; and

a grip member of layered structure formed by assembling an inner member of a soft material and an outer member, the grip member being disposed on the gripping part of the barrel body,

wherein the inner member is covered with the outer member, and the grip member is formed in an assembly facilitating shape for facilitating putting the outer member on the inner member,

wherein each of the inner member and the outer member is formed prior to putting the outer member on the inner member such that each of the inner member and the outer member constitutes a preformed member, ~~and~~

wherein the assembly facilitating shape is a tapered configuration, the inner member being tapered from a back part thereof to a front part thereof and the outer member being tapered from a front part thereof to a back part thereof, ~~thereof, and~~

wherein the inside diameter of the outer member is greater than the outside diameter of the inner member, and the outer member is axially compressed when put on the grip part of the barrel body.

2. (Original) The barrel for a writing implement according to claim 1, wherein the assembly facilitating shape is a protruding and depressed shape.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) The barrel for a writing implement according to claim 1, wherein the outer member is put on the inner member so as to be separable from the inner member and the barrel body.

5. (Previously Presented) The barrel for a writing implement according to claim 1, wherein the outer member is transparent or semitransparent and the inner member is colored in a color different from that of the outer member.

6. (Original) The barrel for a writing implement according to claim 5, wherein the inside surface of the outer member is glossy.

7. (Previously Presented) The barrel for a writing implement according to claim 1, wherein the inner member and the outer member are made of materials of different hardnesses, respectively, the inner member is made of a soft material having a low hardness, and the outer member is made of a soft material having a high hardness.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) The barrel for a writing implement according to claim 1, wherein the outer member is provided with a radially inwardly extending protrusion at the front part

thereof, and wherein a back end surface of the protrusion is in contact with the front end surface of the inner member.

10. (Previously Presented) The barrel for a writing implement according to claim 1, wherein a part of the outer member corresponding to the inner member has a mean wall thickness between 1 and 5 mm.

11. (Previously Presented) The barrel for a writing implement according to claim 2, wherein the outer member is put on the inner member so as to be separable from the inner member and the barrel body.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) The barrel for a writing implement according to claim 2, wherein the outer member is transparent or semitransparent and the inner member is colored in a color different from that of the outer member.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) The barrel for a writing implement according to claim 4, wherein the outer member is transparent or semitransparent and the inner member is colored in a color different from that of the outer member.

16. (Previously Presented) The barrel for a writing implement according to claim 2, wherein the inner member and the outer member are made of materials of different hardnesses, respectively, the inner member is made of a soft material having a low hardness, and the outer member is made of a soft material having a high hardness.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously Presented) The barrel for a writing implement according to claim 4, wherein the inner member and the outer member are made of materials of different hardnesses, respectively, the inner member is made of a soft material having a low hardness, and the outer member is made of a soft material having a high hardness.

19. (Previously Presented) The barrel for a writing implement according to claim 5, wherein the inner member and the outer member are made of materials of different hardnesses, respectively, the inner member is made of a soft material having a low hardness, and the outer member is made of a soft material having a high hardness.

20. (Previously Presented) The barrel for a writing implement according to claim 6, wherein the inner member and the outer member are made of materials of different hardnesses, respectively, the inner member is made of a soft material having a low hardness, and the outer member is made of a soft material having a high hardness.

21. (Previously Presented) The barrel for a writing implement according to claim 1, wherein the front part of the outer member circumscribes the front part of the inner member and the back part of the outer member circumscribes the back part of the inner member such that the inner member and the outer member are tapered in opposite directions.